

This is, indeed, all the more probable when we consider that the eastern Black-eared Chat is the form found throughout the greater part of Southern Europe, as well as in Asia Minor and North-east Africa; while the western form, so far as I have been able to ascertain, with the exception perhaps of an occasional straggler, occurs only in North-west Africa, South Spain, Sicily, and one or two other West-Mediterranean coast-districts.

Hemprich and Ehrenberg's descriptions of *S. aurita* var. *libyca* and *S. amphileuca* (Symb. Phys. 1829, and Symb. Aves, 1833) are also rather vague, but there can be no doubt that both refer to the eastern Black-eared Chat and must therefore be regarded as synonyms of *S. albicollis* (Vieill.) or *S. aurita* Temm.

Dr. Finsch, in his Catalogue of Birds in the Leyden Museum (p. 151), is unable to separate *S. aurita* and *S. amphileuca*, specimens in his collection from South France and Bogosland being identical. This form of the species, in fact, as already mentioned, has a wide range from east to west, and the term *eastern* as applied to it, being misleading, might perhaps with advantage be changed for some other more appropriate designation.

In conclusion, I maintain that both Vieillot's and Temminck's descriptions refer to the Eastern Black-eared Chat, and that Hemprich and Ehrenberg's names are synonyms; so that the name *Saricola caterine*, failing proof to the contrary, should stand for the western Black-eared Chat.

XXXV.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 265.]

67. '*Annals of Scottish Natural History.*'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. No. 45, January 1903, and No. 46, April 1903.]

Mr. Harvie-Brown begins the January number with a sympathetic "In Memoriam" of his—and our—esteemed friend, the late T. E. Buckley; and this is followed by his

final instalment of the supplementary notes on the Birds of the Outer Hebrides. Mr. W. Eagle Clarke gives details of the example of *Phylloscopus viridis* obtained on September 5th, 1902, at the Sule Skerry lighthouse (*cf.* Bull. B. O. C. xiii. p. 12), the second occurrence of this bird in Great Britain; he also remarks upon some species which are not often observed on actual migration in Scotland, such as the Lesser Whitethroat and the Black-tailed Godwit. He further records a Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) from Stromness, Orkneys, while Mr. W. Evans gives some interesting particulars, up to date, respecting the occurrence of this species in the Forth area. In the April number Messrs. Hinxman and Eagle Clarke contribute some new matter on the fauna of East Ross-shire; Mr. Donald Guthrie's notes from South Uist form another useful supplement to the 'Birds of the Outer Hebrides'; and Mr. T. G. Laidlaw begins his Report on the Movement and Migration of Birds in Scotland during 1902. Some interesting records are to be found among the minor notices.—H. S.

68. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xx. Nos. 1 & 2, January and April 1903.]

The January number opens with a concise article by Prof. J. A. Allen on "The A. O. U. Check-list—its History and its Future," and those who play with nomenclature may read pp. 6-9 with profit. Mr. B. S. Bowditch's paper on the birds of Porto Rico—commenced in October—is now concluded, and its value is augmented by a bibliography. An interesting account of the migrations of Richardson's Grouse is given by Mr. A. W. Anthony, who passed several months in the vicinity of the mining-camp of Sparta, Eastern Oregon; and the description of the wild—and harmless—shooting that took place at a flock of a dozen birds which alighted in front of the hotel is amusing, though hardly flattering to the "Spartans." Messrs. Grinnell and Daggett have a valuable paper on the birds observed on the Coronados Islands, a small group situated about twenty miles south of San Diego,

California, but within Mexican waters: not to be confounded with an island of the same name in lat. 26° N. *Melospiza coronatorum* is described as a "new-species"; though why a hyphen should be placed between new and species it is hard to say. It may be a printer's error, but we are not certain, for some peculiar notions exist as to the use of hyphens. This is shown in a paper by Dr. Edwin W. Doran on the "Vernacular Names of Birds," in which the author argues that the A. O. U. Check-list is incorrect in the omission of hyphens in compound words, such as "Turkey Vulture," "Prairie Hen," &c. We are, in the main, of Dr. Doran's opinion, for in these cases "Turkey" and "Prairie" are substantives in apposition, and require the connecting hyphen; moreover, we naturally try to write the language which Prof. Allen, in a reply (p. 73), terms "British English" as contrasted with "American English." However, in case of usage, invoked by Prof. Allen, any argument would be futile, and each must go his own way. In Dr. W. C. Braislin's notes on some birds of Long Island is a record of an immature *Larus minutus*, obtained May 10th, 1902, along with some Bonaparte's Gulls: a second instance for North America. An important feature of this number is Mr. William Dutcher's Report of the A. O. U. Comm. on the Protection of North-American Birds, in which is shown how much can be done by steady and systematic action as distinguished from the vicarious interference which is too often an excuse for self-advertisement.

In the April number our fellow-member, Mr. J. L. Bonhote, communicates the results of observations obtained at some of the Bahaman lighthouses. Mr. H. W. Henshaw states that four examples of the Emperor-Goose (*Phylactes canagica*) were obtained on December 12th in Hawaii, which is by far the furthest southern locality on record, and gives details of some other interesting visitors to the Sandwich Islands. The steamer which plies between Puget Sound and Honolulu was boarded early in October, when 680 miles from land, by a Short-eared Owl (*Asio accipitrinus*), and this, coupled with another similar instance, indicates that there is an

autumnal migration from North America; it may also, perhaps, weaken the claims of *A. sandvicensis* to specific rank.—H. S.

69. *Bangs on the Birds of the Liu Kiu Islands.*

[Stejneger's Catalogue of Birds thus far recorded from the Liu Kiu Islands, Japan, revised, with Additions to date. By Outram Bangs. Proc. New England Zool. Club, iii. p. 93 (1903).]

In the 'Proceedings' of the U.S. National Museum, vol x. (1887), Dr. Stejneger gave a list of all the species of birds recorded from the Japanese islands of the Liu Kiu group. In 1890 a fine collection of birds from the same islands was received by the Museum of Comparative Zoology from Mr. Owston, an examination of which raised the total number of species belonging to the Liu-Kius from 77 to 99. Mr. Bangs has now amalgamated the two lists and gives us a complete catalogue of all the known species of the group. The avifauna of the Liu-Kius is essentially Japanese, with a few endemic species, such as the curious Woodpecker *Sapheopipo noguchii*.

70. *Bangs on new Races of American Birds.*

[Proceedings of the New England Zoological Club. Vols. iii. and iv. 1902-3.]

Mr. Outram Bangs sends us copies of eight papers on "new races" of American birds, but we think it is hardly necessary to give their names, as they are all very close allies of well-known species. Nor do we quite understand why it was necessary to put every species into a separate paper with a separate title to it.

71. *Brewster on the Birds of Lower California.*

[Birds of the Cape Region of Lower California. By William Brewster. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Harvard Coll. xli. pp. 1-241 (1902).]

The peninsula of Lower California is an interesting district, and has engaged the attention of many American collectors—Frazar, Xantus, Belding, Bryant, and Anthony have all

had their turn, and have amassed fine series of its birds for the museums of the Eastern States. Mr. Brewster has now taken up the subject and compiled an excellent memoir, containing a careful account of the birds of the terminal portion of the long peninsula, to which well-selected field-notes from the various collectors are added.

The avifauna thus treated is decidedly Nearectic, but, as Baird pointed out years ago, appears to be more nearly related to that of Arizona than that of California. The number of species ascribed to the "Cape Region" is 167, besides 88 subspecies. To these Mr. Brewster has now added one of the first category and three of the second—namely, *Totanus melanoleucus frazari*, *Megascops auctusi*, *Bubo virginianus elachistus*, and *Tachycineta thalassina brachyptera*. The 30 birds supposed to be peculiar to Lower California are mostly very close allies of their continental representatives. There are 3 Humming-birds included in the list, amongst which *Basilinna leucotis* is a well-marked species, restricted to the peninsula.

72. *Bulletins of the Philippine Museum.*

[*Bulletins of the Philippine Museum.*—I. On Birds from Luzon, Mindoro, Masbate, Fieao, Cuyo, Culion, Cagayan Sulu, and Palawan. By Richard C. McGregor. Pp. 1–12.—II. List of Bird-skins offered in exchange. Pp. 1–8. 8vo. Manila, 1903.]

A Museum of Ethnology, Natural History, and Commerce has been established by the American authorities at Manila, and the first two of the 'Bulletins' of the new Institution are now before us. The first, prepared by Mr. R. C. McGregor, contains a paper on some recent additions to the Philippine avifauna, in the course of which *Chibia cuyensis* is described as a new species from Cuyo Island. The second part is devoted to a list of bird-skins offered in exchange, which, we are assured, are all in "first class" condition.

We beg leave to congratulate our American friends on the energy and enlightenment shown by their government in attending to the claims of science at so early a date in their new rule of this most interesting country.

73. *Chapman on Birds from Alaska.*

[List of Birds collected in Alaska by the Andrew J. Stone Expedition of 1901. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. N. H. xvi. pp. 231-247 (1902).]

The naturalists of the "Stone" Expedition to Alaska of 1901 attended principally to mammals, but obtained 302 specimens of birds, which are referred to 68 species by Mr. Chapman. Most of them are well-known inhabitants of Arctic America, but two are now described as belonging to new subspecies — *Lagopus leucurus peninsularis* and *Cyanocitta stelleri borealis*. Some field-notes by Mr. Figgins (Mr. Stone's taxidermist) are added to the list.

74. *Finn on Two Birds from Mauritius.*

[On Specimens of Two Mauritian Birds in the Collection of the Asiatic Society. By F. Finn, B.A., F.Z.S., Deputy Superintendent of the Indian Museum. J. A. S. B. lxxi. pt. ii. pp. 87-91, pls. iv., v. (1902).]

The author writes on certain specimens of a Moorhen and a Tropic-bird in the Calcutta Museum "from Mauritius," presented many years ago by Mr. Willis Earle, and catalogued by Blyth as *Gallinula chloropus* and *Phaethon candidus*. The Moorhen is referred to *G. pyrrhorhoa* Newton, but its large bill and other divergences are noticed, while one of the Tropic-birds (referred to *Phaethon lepturus*) appears to be more like *P. americanus* of the B. M. Catalogue; but it may be questioned whether these two supposed species are really separable, or whether there is an error in the locality.

75. *Finsch on Dicaeum sollicitans.*

[Ueber *Dicaeum sollicitans* Hartert. Von Dr. O. Finsch. Notes Leyden Mus. xxiii. pp. 153-155.]

The Leyden Museum has received from its correspondent Herr Max Bartels, in Java, an example of *Dicaeum sollicitans* of Hartert (Nov. Zool. viii. p. 52), which was based on a single specimen with the sex undetermined. The new example, of which a description is given, is certainly a female, but Herr Bartels has also secured a male in similar plumage. This proves that the species belongs to the plain-

coloured group of *Dicaeum*, in which the sexes are dressed alike.

76. *Finsch on Two new Javan Birds.*

[Ueber zwei neue Vogelarten von Java. Von Dr. O. Finsch. Notes Leyden Mus. xxiii. pp. 147-152.]

The two new birds from Java are *Caprimulgus bartelsi* and *Crithagra esthere*. The *Caprimulgus* is named after Herr Bartels, a planter resident at Pangerango, near Pasir Datar, in Western Java, who is very active in ornithological work and was the discoverer of both the novelties. Herr Bartels is the author of the most recent list of Javan birds (see "Zur Ornithologie Javas," in *Natuurk. Tijdschr. v. Ned. Ind.* lxi. p. 129), in which 239 species are enumerated.

77. *Finsch on Two Species of Centropus.*

[Ueber zwei bisher verkannte Arten: *Centropus nigrorufus* (Cuv.) und *C. grilli* Hartl. Von Dr. O. Finsch. Notes Leyden Mus. xxiii. pp. 156-161.]

It is well known that Levaillant described and figured, in his 'Oiseaux d'Afrique,' many birds which were entirely strange to South Africa, and in some instances even gave alleged particulars concerning their exact localities and nesting-habits. Such was the case with a species of *Centropus*—his "*Coucal Noirou*" (pl. 220), which Dr. Finsch now shews was really based on a Javan and Sumatran species called *C. purpureus* in the British Museum Catalogue (xix. p. 348). This bird, therefore, ought to bear the name *C. nigrorufus* Cuv., whereas the African species of Coucal, often known under the latter name (if distinct from *C. bengalensis*, which is doubtful), should be termed *C. grilli* Hartl.

78. *Fisher on a new Tern.*

[A new *Procelsterna* from the Leeward Islands, Hawaiian Group. By Walter K. Fisher. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxvi. pp. 559-563 (1903).]

The author describes what appears to be a decidedly new species of the genus *Procelsterna*, or (as we should prefer to

call it) *Procellisterna*, obtained by the naturalists of the U.S. Fish-Commission steamer 'Albatross' at Neekar Island, Hawaiian group, and also seen on Bird Island. It is named *P. saxatilis*. The eggs were taken and are described. The species is nearest to *P. cinerea* of the Australian seas.

79. *Fountain on the Mountains and Forests of South America.*

[The Great Mountains and Forests of South America. By Paul Fountain. London: Longmans & Co., 1902. 1 vol. 8vo. 306 pp. Price 10s. 6d. net.]

This is certainly a remarkable work and one to which attention should be called. Though the author has evidently had no scientific education, and often falls into error in consequence, he has accumulated a large experience of animal life during his travels, and tells his story in good, plain, easy English. Birds are constantly referred to—indeed the author's chief occupation appears to have been that of a Collector, but he does not inform us distinctly what has become of his bird-skins. There are many good field-notes about the species he met with, but in many cases we are not informed what they were, as they seem to be mostly described from memory, not from specimens. For example, the "Urraca-Jay," pictured in a lively way on p. 19, one would suppose to be a *Cyanocorax*, but the eggs described as belonging to it are certainly those of one of the Cuckoos of the Crotophagine group. However, the volume is worthy of examination, though some people might be inclined to doubt the author's good faith.

80. *Godman's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'*

[*Biologia Centrali-Americana*; or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. DuCane Godman. (Zoology.) Parts CLXXI.-CLXXVII. 1902-03. (R. H. Porter.)]

Mr. Godman has now finished the Gallinæ and Geranomorphæ and has progressed well with the Limicolæ. We are pleased to see that he refuses to reject the well-established

terms *Ortyx* and *Parra* on the quite insufficient grounds which have been put forward for doing so. No well-known name should be altered where there is the slightest doubt of the absolute necessity of so doing.

Good coloured figures are given of *Ortalis wagleri*, *Odontophorus melanotis*, *O. leucolæmus*, and *O. cinctus*.

It is expected, we are glad to say, that the "Birds" of this important work may be brought to a close before the end of the year.

81. 'Handbook of Instruction for Collectors.'

[Handbook of Instruction for Collectors issued by the British Museum (Natural History). London, 1902. 137 pp. Longmans. Price 2s. 6d.]

This is a very useful little book, and should be referred to by every naturalist who goes abroad to collect. Even if he knows all about his particular subject, there are sure to be points on which he may require assistance, and here he will find it. The section relating to bird-skinning is short, but full of information, and contains, we think, everything that it is necessary to know. We are specially pleased with the chapter on how to determine the sex of a bird. It is clear, precise, and well illustrated. But we should also have liked to have chapters on collecting birds' eggs and birds in spirit, which both require special treatment.

82. Hartert on Brisson's Generic Terms.

[Eine logische unabweisbare Aenderung in der ornithologischen Nomenklatur. Von E. Hartert. V. Internat. Zool. Congr. pp. 897-899.]

It has been the fashion with many ornithologists (especially those with exaggerated views of the claims of priority) to use Brisson's so-called "generic names." Mr. Hartert proves to us most clearly that this practice is incorrect. Brisson, with all his undoubted merits, never made any generic names adapted to the modern system of binomial nomenclature. The typical Pigeons, for example, he named "Genus Columbinum," using *Columba* as a name for some of them, for others *Ænas*, *Palumbus*, and *Turtur*. It is more logical for binomialists to discard Brisson's nomenclature altogether!

83. *Hartert on the Birds of the Obi Group, Moluccas.*

[The Birds of the Obi Group, Central Moluccas. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. x. p. 1 (1903).]

The Obi Islands lie in the middle of the Moluccan Archipelago, between Halmahera and Ceram, and consist of one larger islet and several that are smaller. They have been visited by Bernstein, Guillemard, Doherty, Lucas (of Brussels), and recently by Waterstradt, who managed to ascend the hills of the interior. Mr. Hartert now gives us the first complete list of the birds of this group, based mainly on the rich series at Tring. He enumerates 85 species, and adds instructive notes. The following are now described as new:—*Astur griseogularis obiensis*, *Cryptolopha everetti waterstradti*, *Pachycephala johni*, and *Criniger lucasi*. Besides these and other species restricted to the locality, Obi Major is (or was until quite lately) the only certainly ascertained home of the rare Woodcock *Neoscolopax rochusseni*.

84. *Hartert on the Birds of the Tukong-Besi Islands and Buton.*

[On the Birds collected on the Tukong-Besi Islands and Buton, Southeast of Celebes, by Mr. Heinrich Kühn. By E. Hartert. Nov. Zool. x. p. 18.]

The Tukong-Besi Islands form an extensive but almost unknown archipelago east of Buton, and had never been visited by a zoological collector till Mr. Kühn went there in December 1901 and January 1902. Buton also is nearly unknown ornithologically. Altogether Mr. Kühn's collection contains examples of 73 species, of which 9 or 10 are migrants from the north and the rest are residents. Generally the ornithology of these islands is predominantly Celebesian, but the following forms are described as peculiar:—*Pisorhina manadensis kalidape*, *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus viridipennis*, *Phanico phaës calorhynchus rufiloris*, *Dicaeum kuehni*, *Cinnyris infrenata*, *Zosterops flavissima*, *Oriolus broderipi oscillans*, *Ptilinopus melanocephalus aurescentior*, and *Hypotaenidia kuehni*.

85. *Hartert on the Birds of Batchian.*

[The Birds of Batjan. By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. x. p. 49 (1903).]

Many well-known ornithologists—Wallace, Bernstein, Guillemard, and others—have visited the beautiful island of Batchian and explored its avifauna, which is closely related to that of its larger sister Halmahera. The remarkable form *Semioptera* exists in both of them, but *S. halmaherae* is slightly different from *S. wallacii*. The material lately supplied to Tring by Doherty and Waterstradt, who penetrated into the high interior, has led to the compilation of the present complete list of the known birds of Batchian, which includes 135 species. Of these *Muscicapula hyperythra pallidipectus*, *Myzomela batjanensis*, and *Columba albertisii exsul* are described as new.

86. *Hartert on a new Oligomyodian Form.*

[On a remarkable new Oligomyodian Genus and Species from Ecuador. By E. Hartert. Nov. Zool. x. p. 117.]

Sapayoa enigma is a new Piprine form, established on the strength of a single female specimen obtained on the Rio Sapayo, in N.W. Ecuador. It appears to be allied to *Scotothorus* (= *Heteropelma*), and is of a general olive-green colour, but it is possible that the male may be differently coloured.

87. *Henshaw on the Birds of the Hawaiian Islands.*

[Birds of the Hawaiian Islands, being a complete List of the Birds of the Hawaiian Possessions, with Notes on their Habits. By H. W. Henshaw. 8vo. Honolulu, H. T., 1902. 146 pp. Price \$1.00.]

A handbook of the birds of the Hawaiian Archipelago will be very useful to the students of that peculiar Ornis, particularly when it is accompanied by such valuable field-notes as Mr. Henshaw gives us in the present memoir. His prefatory remarks are also of interest. Mr. Henshaw assigns 125 species to the Hawaiian avifauna, of which about half (60) are endemic Passeres. Three Rails are likewise peculiar to the group, the rest of the birds being mostly stragglers from America or species of wide distribution.

It would have made the "List" more generally useful if references had been added under each species to the figures published in the great works of Wilson and Evans and of Rothschild. 'The Ibis' does not appear to have reached Honolulu, at any rate the name of one of the Editors is persistently misspelled!

88. *Ihering on the Birds of São Paulo, Brazil.*

[Contribuições para o Conhecimento da Ornithologia de São Paulo por H. von Ihering. Revista do Mus. Paulista, v. pp. 261-329, pl. xi. (1902).]

This is a supplement to Dr. v. Ihering's previous articles on the same subject (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1891, p. 134). He now gives a list, with short remarks added, of 46 additional species of birds which have been recently ascertained to occur within the confines of the State of São Paulo. Amongst these are 4 considered to be probably of new "subspecies" — *Icterus cayanensis valencio-buenoi* (!), *Tyranniscus bolivianus paulistus*, *Picumnus sagittatus sharpei*, and *P. nebulosus caipira*. Adding these to the 590 enumerated in the previous papers, we find the strength of the Pauline ornis to be now about 636 species. The author calculates that it will ultimately run up to 800 species, which is highly probable.

In the second section of his memoir Dr. v. Ihering describes the eggs of 40 species of Pauline birds additional to those in his former papers, and illustrates six of them on a nicely coloured plate. The gem of these is the egg of *Ampelion cucullatus*.

In the third section he discusses the occurrence of an Argentino-Chilian element in the Pauline avifauna, where, however, it appears to us to be very feebly represented.

The fourth section gives a complete nominal List of the Pauline Ornis.

89. *Innes on the Birds of the White Nile.*

[Voyage au Nil Blanc pour des Recherches Zoologiques. Par le Dr. W. Innes Bey. Bull. Soc. Khédiv. de Géographie, sér. v. no. xii. Cairo, 1902.]

This paper, lately read before the Khedivial Society of

Geography at Cairo, gives an instructive account of the author's journey up the White Nile to Fashoda and back, and many notes on the birds, which appear to have attracted his principal attention. He went from Cairo in company with M. Jägerskiöld and other savants from Sweden (sent out by their government on a scientific mission to Egypt and the Soudan) with the object of obtaining a series of birds from the White Nile for the Museum of the Medical School at Cairo, of which he is Curator. In this object he seems to have been quite successful, as he obtained examples of 99 species, of which a systematic list is given at the close of the memoir. Most of these birds are also mentioned in the narrative, which occupies the greater part of the article.

We congratulate the Egyptian authorities in having resident at Cairo a naturalist who is evidently devoted to his work, and trust that under his curatorship the Museum of the Medical School will make rapid progress with its series of native birds.

90. *Kollibay on the Birds of Southern Dalmatia.*

[Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Vogelwelt Dalmatiens. Von Rechtsanwalt Kollibay, Neisse. Ornithol. Jahrb. xiv. pp. 22-45 (1902).]

The author gives an interesting account of his journey to the island of Curzola, in Southern Dalmatia, in the course of which he visited Dr. Madarász at Budapest, Herr Reiser at Sarajewo, and other ornithologists at Mostar and Cattaro. Notes on the birds of Curzola and the vicinity will be found in a second section. Some Buntings (*Emberiza melanocephala*, *E. cirrus*, and *E. hortulana*) were found breeding, and several rare Sylvians are mentioned. *Pratincola rubetra dalmatica* is described as a new subspecies!

91. *Lillo on the Birds of Tucuman.*

[Enumeración sistemática de las Aves de la Provincia de Tucumán por Miguel Lillo. An. Mus. Nac. Buenos Aires, viii. pp. 169-221 (1902).]

This list of the birds of Tucuman contains some prefatory

remarks and the names of 351 species which have been recorded as occurring in that State of the Argentine Republic. A few remarks are added to each of them.

We can assure the author that much yet remains to be done in Argentine Ornithology, and advise him to examine the Sierras on the western side of Tucuman. He claims to have added 20 species to the previous lists of the birds of the State.

92. *Lönberg on a Fossil Condor.*

[On some Fossil Remains of a Condor from Bolivia. By Dr. Einar Lönberg. Bull. Geol. Inst. Univ. Upsala, vi. pt. 1 (1893).]

Among the valuable palæontological specimens brought home by Baron Erland Nordenskiöld from the valley of Tarija, in Southern Bolivia, were a complete tarso-metatarsus and the upper and lower ends of the femur of a large bird. These are now described and figured by Dr. Lönberg and referred to a new species of New-World Vulture allied to the Condor, which it is proposed to call *Sarcorhamphus patruus*. The age of the new fossil Condor is about that of *Mastodon antiium*, plentiful remains of which are found in the same deposits.

93. *Lucas on some North-American Fossil Birds.*

[Notes on the Osteology and Relationship of the Fossil Birds of the Genera *Hesperornis*, *Hargeria*, *Baptornis*, and *Diatryma*. By Frederick A. Lucas. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxvi. pp. 545-556 (1903).]

The acquisition by the U.S. National Museum of a specimen of *Hesperornis regalis* and the loan of some bones of *Hesperornis gracilis* and *Baptornis advena* have enabled Mr. Lucas to add a little to our knowledge of these obscure fossil forms. After commenting fully on *Hesperornis*, he points out that *H. gracilis* is so different from *H. regalis*, that it ought to be put in a separate genus, for which the title *Hargeria* is proposed. *Baptornis* is stated to be quite distinct from *Hesperornis*, and more like existing birds. *Diatryma* is not a Dromæognathine bird, and may possibly belong to the Stercorornithes.

94. *Nelson on a new Cliff-Swallow.*

[A new Subspecies of the Cuban Cliff-Swallow. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xv. p. 211 (1902).]

A new subspecies of Cliff-Swallow is described as *Petrochelidon fulva pallida*. It is based on specimens obtained by the Biological Survey in Coahuila, Mexico, and its distribution is given as the "arid border of the tableland in N.E. Mexico."

95. *North on the Egg of the Kagu.*

[Description of the Eggs of the Kagu, *Rhinochetus jubatus* Verreaux et Des Murs. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S. Records Austral. Mus. iv. pp. 310, 311, pl. 1.]

Mr. North describes and figures eggs of the Kagu of New Caledonia (*Rhinochetus jubatus*) laid in confinement at Sydney. He points out their resemblance to those of some of the Laridæ, but they are likewise to be compared with those of some of the Cranes (Gruidæ), to which family the Kagu is usually supposed to be allied.

The egg of this bird has already been described and figured by Bartlett from an example laid in the Zoological Society's Gardens (see P. Z. S. 1868, p. 154, pl. xii. fig. 3).

96. *Oberholser on Birds from Paraguay.*

[List of Birds collected by William T. Foster in Paraguay. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxv. pp. 127-147 (1902).]

A collection of birds made by Mr. W. T. Foster at Sapucay, in Paraguay, which is a short distance to the east of Asuncion, contains 78 specimens, which are referred to 65 species and subspecies. Mr. Oberholser has already published descriptions of the new forms (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xix. p. 187). He now gives a complete list of the species with critical notes, and proposes to alter the nomenclature according to the American system. The most noticeable novelty appears to be a new *Arremon* (*A. callistus*), allied to *A. polionotus*. But it is based on a single specimen only, and appears to be a little doubtful.

97. *Oberholser on new South-American Birds.*

[Some new South-American Birds. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxv. pp. 59-68 (1902).]

Mr. Oberholser describes as new (or as requiring new names) *Thamnophilus tephrogaster* from Bahia, *Synallaxis spixi notatus* from Argentina, *Xenicopsis percnopterus* from Brazil, *Ochthæca rufimarginata acrophila* from Rio Napo, *Mecocerculus alutus* from Ecuador, *M. stictopterus euplastus* from Peru, *Rhynchoocyclus scotius* from "Brazil," *Hemitriccus pammictus* from S. America (!), *Pogonotriccus alleni* from Colombia, *Sirystes sibilator atimastus* from Matto Grosso, *Icterus pyrrhopterus compsus* from Matto Grosso, and *I. p. argoptilus* from Argentina. A new genus (*Perissotriccus*) is likewise founded for *Todirostrum ecaudatum*, and the species of *Thryothorus* of the group allied to *T. leucotis* are rearranged. We beg leave, however, to express some doubt whether it is of advantage to Science to describe such species as are here indicated without a comparison of the examples in the British Museum, especially where the localities are uncertain. We are nearly sure that most of Mr. Oberholser's species could be matched by specimens in the well-filled boxes at South Kensington.

98. *Prichard's 'Heart of Patagonia.'*

[Through the Heart of Patagonia. By H. Hesketh Prichard. With Illustrations by J. G. Millais. London: Heineman, 1902. 1 vol. 346 pp. Price 21s. net.]

Mr. Prichard went through "the heart of Patagonia" in search of the extinct *Neomylodon*, of which, it was suggested, some individuals might still be found lingering in the recesses of the Andes. This did not prove to be the case, but the author's adventures and experiences have resulted in the production of a most interesting narrative of his journey, which we can heartily recommend to our readers. Mammals were naturally the first objects of attraction, but birds, as will be obvious on turning over the pages of Mr. Prichard's book, were by no means neglected. Patagonia, we are told,

is a wonderful country for Birds-of-prey. You may travel for leagues, and see no signs of life but Chimangos, Car-ranchos, and Condors. Mr. Millais's life-like illustrations provide an additional charm to the work.

99. *Richmond on Birds from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.*

[Birds collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott and Mr. C. B. Kloss in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxv. pp. 287-314 (1902).]

The collection of birds made by Dr. Abbott and Mr. Kloss in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the early part of 1891 contained about 520 specimens, which are referred by Mr. Richmond to nearly 100 species. Of these nine "appear to be new"—namely, *Zosterops ventralis*, *Sturnia erythro-pygia katchalensis*, *Rhinomyias nicobarica*, *Arachnechthra klossi*, *Pitta abbotti*, *Spilornis klossi*, *Astur obsoletus*, *Osmotreron chloroptera andamanica*, and *Excalfactoria triukatensis*. We venture to express a doubt whether it is justifiable to describe these supposed "new species" without consulting Mr. Hume's collections now in the British Museum. We are sure also that such a well-known journal as that of the Bombay Natural History Society ought not to be pronounced "inaccessible" at Washington, and that Mr. Butler's recent paper on the Andamans should have been consulted before the publication of the present article. We are pleased, however, that Mr. Richmond is content to follow the arrangement of the 'Fauna of British India,' and does not turn the sequence of the species upside down! Dr. Abbott may be congratulated on having got examples of the *Pitta* of the Nicobars (*P. abbotti*), which Mr. Hume saw but did not obtain.

Mr. Kloss has lately published an interesting account of his experiences during this voyage ('In the Andamans and Nicobars,' London, Murray, 1903), which we can cordially recommend to our readers. There are numerous allusions to birds in it.

100. *Richmond on Birds from Sumatra.*

[Birds collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott on the Coast and Islands of North-west Sumatra. By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxvi. pp. 485-524 (1903).]

Mr. Richmond gives us an account of the birds which the indefatigable collector Dr. Abbott obtained in the winter of 1891-92 on the coast and islands of North-west Sumatra during a five months' cruise. The series consists of about 450 specimens, representing nearly 140 species. They are mostly well-known Sumatran forms, but 19 are "believed to be new," and described accordingly. These are named *Macropygia simalārensis*, *Spilornis abbotti*, *Pisorhina umbra*, *Palaeornis major*, *Psittinus abbotti*, *Pelargopsis simalārensis*, *P. sodalis*, *Thriponax parvus*, *Macropteryx permagna*, *Cyanoderma fulviventre*, *Stachyris banjakensis*, *Malacopteryx notatum*, *Hypothymis abbotti*, *H. consobrina*, *Tchitrea procera*, *Graucalus babūensis*, *G. simalārensis*, *Campephaga compta*, and *Oriolus mundus*.

Some of these "species" appear to rest on rather slender evidence. For instance, *Macropteryx pteelonga*, founded on a single female, is said to be like *M. longipennis*, "but size larger"!

New names are given to *C. grisea* Bp. ex Gray, and to *Corvus tenuirostris* Moore (nec Gray, nec Bonnatere), which are proposed to be called respectively *Columba phasma* and *Corvus compiler*. It is suggested that *Ichthyophaga* Lesson (1842) has priority over other generic terms for *Falco ichthyætus* Horsf.

101. *Richmond on Pinaroloxias inornata.*

[Note on *Pinaroloxias inornata* (Gould). By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xv. pp. 247, 248 (1902).]

Gould described "*Cactornis inornata*" in 1843, from a specimen obtained during the voyage of H.M.S. 'Sulphur,' and stated to have been brought from Bow Island, Paumotu group. It seems, however, *not* to occur there, and Mr. Richmond identifies it with *Cocornis agassizi* Townshend (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. xxvii. p. 133, 1895) from Cocos

Island, which was also visited by the 'Sulphur.' The bird should therefore stand as *Pinaroloxias inornata*, this new generic name for it having been made by Dr. Sharpe, who removed it to the family Dicæidæ.

102. Rothschild and Hartert on Papuan Birds.

[Notes on Papuan Birds. By the Hon. W. Rothschild and E. Hartert. Nov. Zool. x. p. 65.]

The authors continue their notes on Papuan birds, of which the Tring Museum contains an almost unrivalled series. Of the Paradiseidæ, which are first treated, 87 out of 96 recognised forms are represented at Tring by 1292 skins. The specimens are now catalogued systematically and notes are added. Of *Lobo-paradisea sericea* the three only known examples are at Tring, but the exact locality is still uncertain. *Loborhamphus nobiliis* (Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 34) is figured. *Manucodia atra altera* is a new subspecies. The Corvidæ and Laniidæ of Papua are next reviewed. In the latter family *Pitohui* (scr. *Rhectes*) *dohertyi* is a new species from Ron Island, in the Bay of Geelvink, *P. meyeri* a new species from Northern New Guinea, and *Pinarolestes megarhyncha madaraszii* and *P. m. despectus* are two new subspecies. A new *Pachycephala* is described from British New Guinea as *P. moroka*. Six Papuan Diceruridæ are recognised, of which *Dicrurus meeki* from Guadalcanar, Solomon Islands, is new. Lists of the Oriolidæ, Artamidæ, and Sturnidæ follow and conclude the present instalment of the Papuan Birds.

103. Salvadori on the Birds of Franz-Joseph Land.

[Osservazioni Scientifiche eseguite durante la Spedizione polare di S.A.R. Luigi Amedeo di Savoia, Duca degli Abruzzi, 1899-1900. Ucelli. Osservazioni del Prof. Tommaso Salvadori. Milano, 1903. 11 pp. 4to.]

We have here an account of the collection of birds made by H.R.H. the Duke of the Abruzzi during his celebrated North-Polar expedition of 1899-1900. As might have been expected from the locality visited, the series was not large, embracing only 38 specimens, which are referred by

Count Salvadori to 10 species, besides a certain number of eggs. But the birds are by no means without interest, as 8 of them are from Prince Rudolph Island, the most northern of the Franz-Joseph group, where the expedition passed the winter. The only Passerine bird in the list is *Plectrophenax nivalis*, of which examples were obtained in May and June 1900.

The introduction contains an excellent summary of previous authorities on the birds of Franz-Joseph Land. The egg of *Pagophila eburnea* is figured.

For a complete account of the Duke of Abruzzi's adventurous journey, we may refer our readers to "On the 'Polar Star'" (two vols., Hutchinson & Co., 1903), a most interesting and beautifully illustrated work, with many references to birds.

104. *Salvadori on the Birds of Principe and San Thomé Islands.*

[Contribuzioni alla Ornitologia della Isole del Golfo in Guinea.— I. Uccelli dell' Isola del Principe. II. Uccelli dell' Isola di San Thomé. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Mem. R. Accad. Sci. Torino, (2) liii. pp. 1-16, 17-45 (1903).]

The distinguished Italian explorer Sig. Leonardo Fea has lately visited the four principal islands of the Gulf of Guinea, and Count Salvadori has undertaken the task of working out the birds which he has collected. After a concise account of previous authorities on the birds of the island of Principe and a complete bibliography, the Count states that the 41 specimens obtained by Sig. Fea are referable to 16 species, of which one, *Turdus xanthorhynchus* (already characterized in Boll. Mus. Torino, no. 114, p. 2), is new to science, and another, *Phæniconias minor*, is new to the island-fauna. A complete list, with synonymy and remarks, is then given of the 43 species as yet ascertained to occur in the island.

It is a remarkable fact that neither diurnal nor nocturnal birds-of-prey have yet been found in the island. The general facies of the avifauna is decidedly West-African, but there

are two Passerine genera peculiar to it—*Cuphopterus* and *Parinia*.

In a second memoir the ornis of the larger island of San Thomé is treated in a similar manner. An excellent summary of the previous authorities on the subject is given, together with a complete bibliography. Sig. Fea had a bad time in this island and secured only 103 specimens of birds, which are referable to 21 species. Two of these (*Zosterops fea* and *Corythornis thomensis*) are new to science. The list of the known birds of St. Thomas, which follows, contains 63 species, together with synonyms and remarks. Twenty-two of them are restricted to the island. An appendix gives the names of 17 doubtful species.

105. *Shufeldt on the Classification of certain Groups of Birds.*

[On the Classification of certain Groups of Birds. (Supersuborders: Archornithiformes, Dromæognathæ, Odontoholcæ.) By R. W. Shufeldt. American Naturalist, xxxvii, pp. 33-64 (1903).]

This is one of a series of essays prepared by the author for a general work on the classification of the Class Aves, but subsequently broken up and issued separately on account of difficulties connected with its publication. The present memoir contains Dr. Shufeldt's views on *Archæopteryx*, the Ostriches and allied birds, and the *Odontornithes*. Eight other memoirs are stated to be ready for appearance in due course.

106. *Swenander on the Gullet and Stomach of Birds.*

[Studien über den Bau des Schlundes und des Magens der Vögel. Inaugural Dissertation von Gust. Swenander. Upsala, 1902.]

This elaborate paper contains a valuable addition to our knowledge of the structure of the gullet and stomach of Birds, and the author has tried to refer the varieties of the finer anatomical structure to the nature of the food as their ultimate cause. About 130 birds, representing most of the principal groups, have been examined micro-copically, while of 47, mostly common European birds, more microscopical

detail has been given. Especial attention has been paid to the solvent glands. The general part, and most of the numerous illustrations, will chiefly interest the histologist, but the systematist will hardly derive much help or hints from this part of avine anatomy.

XXXVI.—*Letters, Proceedings of the British Ornithologists' Union, Extracts, Obituary, &c.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to "The Editors of 'The Ibis'" :—

SIRS,—On the 16th January last, through the kindness of Mr. Arthur W. Elford, British Vice-Consul at Catania, Sicily, I came into possession of a fine specimen of *Porphyrio alleni* Thompson, which had been obtained on the 4th of December, 1902, at the Pantano di Catania, an extensive tract of marshy land near the town of that name. The bird in question was shot by a local sportsman, Signor Vincenzo Auteri, who, fortunately recognising its rarity, took it to a taxidermist and had the skin prepared by him. The specimen was not sexed, but, judging from its wing-length (6·10 inches), I presume it to be a male. The average wing-length in a series of specimens of this species in my collection is 6 inches in the case of males, and 5·60 inches in that of females.

This makes the sixth recorded instance of the occurrence of this tropical species in Europe, four of the previous captures having been effected in Italy and one in Spain. Of the four examples obtained in Italy, no less than three come from the neighbourhood of Lucca in Tuscany, while the fourth is from the vicinity of Pachino in Sicily (Giglioli, 'Avifauna Italica,' p. 353).

According to Signor Auteri, another of these birds was seen by him about the middle of January this year not far from the Lake of Lentini, also near Catania, but was not secured.

I may also here mention having lately heard from the naturalist Blanc of Tunis that a specimen of *Porphyrio alleni* was obtained in December last near Bizerta in North Tunisia, and was prepared by him for a customer.